

Thompson Carriage House (Kilmarnock Hall Carriage House)  
Canal Road  
Alexandria  
Huntingdon County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5405

HABS  
PA.  
31-ALEX,  
28-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

THOMPSON CARRIAGE HOUSE  
(Kilmarnock Hall Carriage House)

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31-ALEX,

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- Location: Lot No. 108, west of Church Street between an alley and the canal, Alexandria, Porter Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.
- Significance: Kilmarnock Hall, of which only this carriage house remains, was the grand summer residence of William Thompson (1823-1921), a philanthropic Alexandrian who made a fortune in the western Pennsylvania oil fields.
- Description: Two-story frame structure with primary gable roof and two cross gables with exaggerated eaves supported by decorated brackets; ornament is provided by stylized, false half-timbering. The main facade features two single-door entries and a second-story paneled door situated like an implied hay hood. An assortment of irregular window sash include sixteen-over-two-light, six-over-six-light, and twelve-light decorated atop two-over-two-light sash; a decorated semicircular opening sits above the second-story door.
- History: Kilmarnock Hall was built by the Reverend James Thompson, named after the country in Ireland from which his family emigrated. Thompson owned it until 1831; from 1831 until 1910 it belonged to his heirs, including William Thompson, who lived there sporadically during most of his life. Sometime after 1875 the younger Thompson remodeled the house and used it as a summer residence (Harshbarger, 75). William E. Hoffman then acquired the property, and he deeded it to the present owner. According to him, a carriage house existed in the north section of this present lot during the mid-nineteenth century canal operation, which served as a rest stop for canal horses and mules. Due to its architectural styling, however, this is probably a new or remodeled building, attributable to Thompson after his return. A 1979 fire destroyed the accompanying house.
- Sources: Africa, J. Simpson. History of Huntingdon and Blair Counties, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1883.
- Alexandria Borough tax records, 1859 to 1873, Huntingdon County Historical Society and Huntingdon County Courthouse.
- Harshbarger, Jean P., Nancy R. Taylor, Sara H. Zabriskie, and F.R. Zabriskie. Hartslog Heritage. State College, Pennsylvania: K-B Offset Printing, Inc., 1975; p. 75.
- Huntingdon County Deed Books and Probate Records, Huntingdon County Courthouse, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.
- Historian: Karen Genskow, NPS Project Historian, August 1988.

Project Information

This report was completed as part of a larger project documenting two canal towns--Saltsburg, on the Western Division of the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal, and Alexandria, on the Juniata Division--flanking the Allegheny Divide. Twenty-one reports on other buildings in Alexandria, an overview history of Alexandria (HABS No. PA-5407), and of canal town development in Pennsylvania (HABS No. PA-5666) are part of the HABS/HAER collection. Twenty-two reports on buildings in Saltsburg (Indiana County) and an overview history of Saltsburg (HABS No. PA-5438) are also available. Results of the project were published as Two Historic Pennsylvania Canal Towns: Alexandria and Saltsburg, Sara Amy Leach, editor (Washington, DC: Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, March 1989).